

E2

Claim 4 (Amended Three Times). A process for the preparation of a protein having a molecular weight of about 24kd which specifically binds to the E2 protein of hepatitis C virus, or for the preparation of a functionally equivalent variant or fragment thereof, comprising the steps of:

- i) contacting cells with a preparation of E2;
- ii) obtaining a membrane preparation from cells exhibiting binding to E2; and
- iii) purifying said protein from said preparation.

E3

Claim 10 (Amended Three Times) A process for the preparation of a protein having a molecular weight of about 24kd and which specifically binds to the E2 protein of hepatitis C virus, or a functionally equivalent variant or fragment thereof, comprising the steps of:

- i) contacting cells with a preparation of E2;
- ii) obtaining a membrane preparation from mammalian cells selected for binding to E2;
- iii) precipitating the preparation with ammonium sulphate at less than 33% saturation and retaining the supernatant;
- iv) precipitating the supernatant with ammonium sulphate at between 33 and 50% saturation and retaining the precipitate; and
- v) resuspending the precipitate from step iv) in buffer and subjecting the